

Draft

**Supplemental Environmental Impact
Report/Environmental Impact Statement**

**Bel Marin Keys Unit V Expansion of the
Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project**

SCH# 1998031053

Prepared for:

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**SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Bel Marin Keys Unit V Expansion of the
Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project
Novato, Marin County, California**

The responsible federal lead agency is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps). The responsible state lead agency is the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy). The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) is a cooperating agency.

Abstract: This report describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of proposed restoration of tidal salt marsh and other wetland habitat at the Bel Marin Keys Unit V (BMKV) property as an expansion of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (HWRP). The final environmental report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the HWRP was issued in 1998, and the project was authorized in the federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. The Conservancy purchased the BMKV site in 2001 with the intent of proposing restoration on the site. This report will support decision making by the Corps, Conservancy, and other responsible agencies to implement the proposed expansion and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other pertinent laws and regulations.

The purpose of the BMKV expansion is to restore important tidal wetland habitat in San Francisco Bay and restoration at the BMKV site represents the implementation of local, regional, and national planning efforts. Three alternatives are analyzed in this document: Alternative 1 – Dredged Material Placement with Enlarged Pacheco Pond; Alternative 2 – Dredged Material Placement with Seasonal Wetlands; and Alternative 3 – Natural Sedimentation with Enlarged Pacheco Pond. The alternatives include restoration of tidal and other wetland habitats, construction and improvement of levees, installation of new water conveyance structures, and construction of a recreational trail, among other elements. The environmental consequences of each alternative are discussed. Where significant impacts are identified, mitigation is proposed where feasible mitigation has been identified. Based on the rationale presented in the General Reevaluation Report (GRR), the Corps has tentatively recommended Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. The Conservancy has not selected a preferred alternative as of this draft document; however based on the current analysis, could support either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2.

Federal, state, and local agencies and the public have the opportunity to comment on this document during the comment period from July 19, 2002 to September 02, 2002. Information on the project can be found on the Internet at [http:// www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/belmarin](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/belmarin). Written comments can also be submitted via email to: belmarinkeys@jsanet.com. The document is also available at the City of Novato downtown library, Marin County central library, and City of Novato and Marin County Planning Departments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions and/or written comments about the proposed action and SEIR/EIS can be addressed to:

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